

Brief Notes

In a southern state recently a man and his son started to a neighbor to kill the entire family because of a feud between them. Each took his station, by mistake the father shot his own son as he came around the house. It is not best to chronicle accounts of crimes, but this one serves to point the moral of the barbarity of the old feud method of avenging wrong. It only brings blood and death all around. How much better is it to obey the injunction "Dearly beloved avenge not yourselves but rather give place unto wrath for revengeance is mine; I will recompense, saith the Lord."

The streets of a city in South Africa are being dug up because they were paved with rock which has been found to contain diamonds. Diamonds are too precious for the paving of streets. Character also is too precious to be trampled under foot by dissipation and selfish greed. Many a precious life, full of possibilities has been used, as it were for paving, by being prostituted to low uses. It is the duty of every man to live at his best. "I press toward the mark of the prize of our high calling in Christ Jesus."

At last there seems to be some authentic word from Nansen, the intrepid explorer who attempted to find the North pole in a balloon several years ago. Some Indians of eastern Alaska say that the air boat came to the ground near the upper part of Hudson bay and those in it were killed by the natives. Doubtless some one else will attempt the voyage and will keep on attempting until success is attained. The effort seems fool-hardy in one way, yet the exploration has a scientific value and heroic effort serves to inspire the heroic in others. But how much more is it worth while to find the cross at the way of life. "Strive to enter in at the straight gate, for straight is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life and few there be that find it."

The adoption by the other powers of the suggestion of the U. S. that China be made to punish her own culprits in the late outrages upon foreigners marks another triumph of western ideals in diplomacy. There is no line of progress in which this vigorous growing country has not some to excel. May it never lower the standard of consecration and faith which was planted by our forefathers.

"I have known not a few youths," says a writer in *The Independent*, "who have owed their entire position and rise in life to that faithfulness which led them to take part in the work of the church of God."

"What is the difference between anarchy and Christianity?" asks some one in the *Advance*; and the reply is as follows: "Anarchy says what's thine is mine. Christianity says what's mine is thine, and the difference is world-wide."

The question is frequently asked, "Is the world growing better?" A more important question for every one is, "Am I growing better?"

In the course of his sermon, Dr. Minot J. Savage, of Unitarian faith, said, "I believe that thousands of people have lived since the time of Jesus as good, as tender, as loving, as true, as faithful as he." We don't believe anything of the kind, and if the record given by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John of the life and teachings of Jesus, is true, then we know that the assertion by Dr. Savage is not true. But when one denies the divinity of Jesus Christ, that he was no better than other men is but a natural and logical conclusion.

At last an air-ship has been invented which promises to be a success. It has made a number of trips without accident. It has 17 separate balloons so that if one is injured the rest will support the ship. A new cover is used also which keeps the gas safely confined. It is propelled by revolving screws. It is to be hoped that the long-coveted

invention is a reality. Some will say that it is an invention of the devil just as they did of R. R. trains, but God commanded man to "subdue the earth" and that means to bring into service all the forces of nature which we can learn how to use. More and more we have been making servants of these forces and more and more is the increasing power of man being used for the good of man and the kingdom of God.

No doubt it would be a surprise to a great many people if their prayers were literally answered, because like the mother of James and John, they know not what they ask. It is seldom, however, that an answered prayer would result so fatally as the following reported by the *Roanoke News*: "A white minister, after conducting services at church, asked an old deacon to lead in prayer. The brother in black offered a fervent appeal for the white brother and said: 'O Lord, gib him de eye ob de eagle dat he spy out sin afar off. Put his hands to de gospel plow. Tie his tongue to de line ob truth. Nail his ear to de gospel pole. Bow his head way down between his knees, and his knees in some lonesome, dark and narrer valley where prayer is much wanted to be made. 'Noint him wid de kerosene ile-of salvashon and sot him on fire.'"

Dr. Harper of the University of Chicago in a series of lectures upon the small college of America predicts their perpetuation in spite of the rise of the larger endowed universities. Some of them, he says, will combine. Some will increase their equipment, and some will call themselves academies as they really are instead of colleges or universities. But that they will continue to exist is assured because 1 They are near the homes of the pupils and are comparatively inexpensive. 2 They maintain a Christian atmosphere and an intensity of purpose which is scarcely possible in a large university. 3 They have a deep hold upon the affections of the people because of their historic service. 4 They are needed for the first work in education even tho they should be feeders for the larger schools with their advanced courses.

There has been conflict in some places between state and church schools. There should be no occasion for this. Each have their place. Our own college has its field and mission which no great university can fill. It should be regarded as a permanent institution, destined to a great future, and should be loyally supported by the whole church.

Quiet Observer

On Politics

I believe in being "dead to the world" but not so dead as to have no interest in the affairs of government. We have a few good brethren who do not vote nor do they believe in the efficiency of such agencies in helping the kingdom of God on in the world. I confess that I am not one of them. To me participation in civil affairs seems a sacred duty. If Paul could say of the corrupt and tyrannical forms of government in his day that "the powers that be are ordained of God" how much more are the more noble and enlightened forms of today his agents in the education of the world.

In Jesus' day there was little for citizens to do but pay their tribute and be obedient, but with us "the things that belong to Caesar" include voting, helping at caucuses to get good men nominated, at conventions to formulate platforms with right principles, and to run for office when a chance to do good in this way affords itself.

This does not mean that a man must be a party slave and share in all the meanness of party methods. It means that he shall stand for the right and oppose the wrong in politics as in everything else. I know men who have gone so far as to backslide from the church in order to be popular as politicians. I say, Shame on the man who cannot be a Christian and do his political duty too. And I say, Shame on the man who boasts that he

always votes "the straight ticket." Here is one who would scratch the last man off the ticket and throw it away before voting for some of the candidates who are put up for office. Think of being asked to vote for a saloon-keeper for alderman or a saloon bum for congress! It is time for decent Christian men to make themselves a power in the primaries as well as in the prayer-meeting and let the parties know that the balance of power held by the church will remain loyal not to party, but to righteousness in platforms and in men. There are few tickets which a Christian can swallow entire without gagging. I would like to see every voter in the Brethren church informed on public questions so that they may vote intelligently. I would like to see them informed as to the character and career of the candidates so that they may choose the best. I would like to see them so well informed in God's word that they will not allow trumped up issues of expediency to take the place of the all-important moral issues. I would like to see them put boys above dollars and homes above dinner pails and God above party. With righteousness in the nation all other questions will be settled aright but the saloon curse rampant and its allied evils winked at no law can save us from decay. God help us to be active, and as conscientious as active, and as intelligent as conscientious is the prayer of Quiet Observer.

Information Bureau

1 There are some who claim that "lifting up holy hands" as mentioned in 1 Tim. 2:8 is meant by Paul as an ordinance. How do you explain the passage?

Paul is simply exhorting to the duty of a prayerful life. We may infer from the passage that it was common in supplication to stretch out the palms toward the sky, but that Paul meant this to be the only attitude in prayer cannot be held for a moment. He uses the expression "holy hands" merely to emphasize the necessity of a righteous life in order to avail anything in prayer.

2 What scripture authority do the Brethren have for rebaptizing a person coming into the church who has not been baptized by trine immersion?

Baptism is a symbol of the death and burial of the old man of sin and the resurrection of the new in new and vital union with the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. If the first baptism has been in sincerity the regeneration of the heart may have been real even tho the symbol of it was wrong. In such a case the rebaptism would not be "for the remission of sins" so much as "to fulfill all righteousness" as in the case of Jesus. Matt. 3:15. We have the specific example of Paul in Acts 19:1-7. Here were twelve men who had not been baptized nor instructed properly and consequently were rebaptized. This is the only example we have but one clear example is all that we need.

3 Who is the "most excellent Theophilus" mentioned by Luke at the beginning of his gospel?

It was the custom in the apostolic days for writers of new books to get them before the people by dedicating them to some rich or prominent friend. This friend would invite his aristocratic neighbors and friends to his house and there would give them a dinner. Before this distinguished company the author would read his book or portions of it. The company would sound its praises and each purchase a copy and thus the book would be advertised and gotten before the people. The name Theophilus is a Greek name meaning "lover of God." Manuscripts have been discovered which mention a high Roman gentleman by this name with sufficient evidence to make it morally certain that he was the Theophilus of Luke. It is very interesting to think of the gospel of Luke getting started in this way. Perhaps there were in that elite audience some of the believers from Caesar's own household. The residence was on one of the hills in a beautiful part of Rome. The book of Acts is dedicated to the same man.